

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE Journal.

No. 1.—PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

MARCH 1, 1870.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

IN issuing the first number of their Journal, the Manchester Executive Committee are actuated by a desire to furnish a medium of communication among the members, and a record of the work done by the different branches of the NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. They believe that many persons would gladly help the cause if they knew exactly what to do, and when to do it, and if they understood the great importance of individual effort at this crisis. If persons interested in the movement could receive every month an account of what has been done in other places, they might be tempted to try what could be done in their own locality. If they saw that one person, by taking the trouble—and it is not much trouble—of writing out the petition, obtaining a few names to it, and sending it to their own member to be presented, did something which was really useful, many might be incited to the same effort. For there is a pleasure in helping a good cause—a pleasure which too many deny themselves, because they fancy that the little they can do is not worth doing. Individuals are too apt to undervalue the importance of individual effort; forgetting that it is by the combination of individual efforts—each one seemingly insignificant—that collective force is accumulated and great results obtained. The movement would receive an enormous impetus if every person who has it in his or her power to do something for the cause would resolutely determine that however little CAN be done that little SHALL be done.

Isolation is another cause of weakness. No one can work well without sympathy and encouragement from others who are likeminded. It is the object of the promoters of this Journal to extend to every isolated well-wisher the firm grasp of an outstretched hand, offering and seeking help. Let every one who reads these pages, and who is thereby moved with a wish to give some help, however little, to the cause, write at once to the Editor, who will find for such a place among the band of workers.

Particular attention is requested to the announcement of the progress of the Women's Disabilities Bill, the second reading of which is fixed for the 4th of May. Petitions, to be of use, must be sent in before that date, and the sooner the better. Many people fancy that petitions are of little or no use; but this is a very great mistake. Mr. Disraeli, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated on one occasion, in the House of Commons, that "there was no right really more valuable than the

"right of petition; nor could any opinion be more erroneous than that which supposed it to be a mere form. Because the petitions presented did not now lead to discussion, it was supposed that the House did not attend to them, but the fact was not so. The Committee on Public Petitions strictly examined every petition, and the more important were printed with the votes. Opinions expressed in petitions had great influence on the judgment of the House."

The Reports of the Committee on Public Petitions are issued every three or four days, and placed in the hands of each member of the House of Commons. The total number of petitions and of signatures is carried forward from one report to another, so that the numbers of signatures to petitions for any special object, which are given in the first report, reappear to swell the total in every subsequent report throughout the session. This shows the advantage of petitioning early, for the sooner a petition is sent in, the greater the number of times that the amount of signatures appended is brought before the House. Up to the present date, March 1st, the total number of signatures to petitions in favour of Women's Suffrage is 20,166. These numbers will be brought forward in every future report. But if they had been delayed till nearly the end of April, the numbers would only have been brought once or twice under the notice of members before the second reading of the Bill, and they would have been of comparatively little use. So much of the Parliamentary report as refers to the Women's Disabilities Bill is given in another column, and attention is particularly directed to the continually increasing number of petitions, and the way in which the accumulated force is brought forward. It is most important to keep sending in a constant succession of petitions up to the time of the second reading of the Bill.

Besides recording the progress of the Women's Disabilities Bill and the number of petitions presented in its favour, it is intended that this Journal shall contain an account of public meetings and lectures held during the past month—of arrangements for forthcoming meetings—expressions of opinion from members of Parliament and other influential persons—extracts from newspapers bearing on the question—correspondence on the subject of women's suffrage, and original articles advocating the principle. It is hoped that friends throughout the country will assist the promoters by communicating such intelli-

gence as falls in their way, by forwarding to the editor newspapers containing reports of meetings, or other passages of interest, by writing letters or articles suitable for insertion in its pages, and by promoting the circulation of the Journal among their friends. The first number must bear more or less of an experimental or imperfect character; but it is hoped that fresh strength will be gathered with the progress of the movement, and no effort will be spared to make the Journal interesting to the friends of women's suffrage, and efficient in advancing their just and righteous cause.

PUBLIC MEETINGS, ETC.

EDINBURGH.

On January 17th, a public meeting was held in Queen Street Hall, in favour of conferring the franchise on all women qualified as owners or occupiers of lands or houses in their own right. The hall was filled to overflowing, a considerable proportion of the assemblage being ladies. On the platform were Principal Sir Alexander Grant; Sir David Wedderburn, M.P.; Dr. Lyon Playfair, M.P.; Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P.; Mr. Duncan McLaren, M.P.; Mr. Miller, M.P.; Professors Masson, Kelland, and Calderwood; Rev. Dr. Wallace, Old Greyfriars'; Mr. Adam Gifford, advocate; Councillors Mossman, Greig, Wormald, Murray, Millar, and Bladworth; Dr. Bedford; Messrs. Edward Blyth, C.E.; William Smith; R. Cox, W.S.; William McCrie; Hugh Rose, and John Carmichael. On the motion of Sir Alexander Grant, Mr. McLaren, M.P., was called to the chair.

Professor CALDERWOOD then read the annual report of the Edinburgh Branch of the National Society for Women Suffrage. It stated that the Society had been in organised operation for more than two years, and had directed its efforts to extend an interest in the cause of women's suffrage, by the circulation of thousands of pamphlets, many of them emanating from the ablest pens in the kingdom, by correspondence with other towns, and by endeavouring to organise kindred societies throughout Scotland. These efforts had resulted in procuring from Scotland nearly 100 petitions to Parliament, signed by upwards of 19,000 names. The number of petitions presented to Parliament altogether on the subject had been 340, with signatures amounting to 126,475. He had the greatest possible satisfaction in moving the adoption of the report.

Councillor MOSSMAN, in seconding the motion, argued that as female householders had to pay their share of the municipal taxation, they had a right to a vote in municipal matters; while the interest they took in moral and social questions rendered it desirable that their influence should be felt in the election of members of Parliament.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution to the meeting, and finding it received with acclamation, declared it carried.

Some persons, however, half-jocularly as it seemed, called for a vote. A show of hands was accordingly taken, when the resolution was carried all but unanimously, only four hands, as the chairman averred, being held up in opposition.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, M.P., then moved the following resolution:—"That the ownership or occupation of lands or houses being the basis of representation in this country, it is unjust in principle to make sex a ground of disqualification, thereby excluding a large number of intelligent persons well qualified to exercise the electoral franchise." He said: We are asked sometimes whether women are not virtually represented. Undoubtedly women are virtually represented, just as the great

mass of our countrymen who lived in houses below £10 rental were virtually represented before the passing of the last Reform Act; just as the poor agricultural labourer of England is virtually represented by the squire and the parson. I have never gone to the dictionary to inquire the meaning of virtual representation; but when I find everywhere that the class which is only virtually represented is subject to great legal and social disabilities, I take it for granted that virtual representation meant gross misrepresentation. (Cheers.) Now what has virtual representation done for the married women of the United Kingdom? The great majority of women who are happily married know nothing of the legal position of married women. A great many women know what it is. If I wanted a parallel, the nearest I could find, I would go to the Southern States of America, among the negro population, before the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. The negro was not his own, but there were some things his master could not do in regard to him. The negro could own nothing—whatever he had was his master's. The married women here are in the same position. The negro had no power over his children; the married women of this country, when their children are seven years old, have no kind of power to prevent their children being removed if their husbands choose to remove them. Well, suppose we had real instead of virtual representation; suppose that all women householders had a vote. Members of Parliament, where they can honestly obtain votes at an election, are very glad to obtain them. (Laughter.) And where they can do a service to those who have helped them in their election they generally have no objection to do that service. And if women had votes, if the sixth part of the whole constituency were women, there would not be a question which affects them that would not be most scrupulously attended to by members of Parliament.

The motion was seconded by Professor Masson, supported by the Rev. Dr. WALLACE, and carried unanimously.

Sir DAVID WEDDERBURN, M.P. for South Ayrshire, said he had pleasure in laying before the meeting the most practical resolution that had yet been proposed. Certain gentlemen had undertaken during the ensuing session of Parliament to bring in a bill which should embody those principles in favour of which the meeting had declared so decidedly. It was one thing to introduce a measure—it was quite a different thing to force its consideration on a lukewarm and hostile Legislature. This measure was certain to encounter a deal of opposition, and those who had undertaken to fight the battle would require all the assistance they could afford. In each session of Parliament time appeared to be on the side of the opponents of progress and reform, and a measure which had swam for its life in the troubled sea of the House of Commons was liable to receive a summary *quietus* in another place. Such was the fate of the Married Women's Property Bill last session, and possibly the same fate would await this measure in the ensuing session. But they must not be disheartened; time fought on their side, and the time would come when their opponents would not only cease their opposition, but would claim credit to themselves for assisting in carrying the measure. Sir David concluded by moving—"That this meeting rejoice to learn that Mr. Jacob Bright, and Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke, have agreed to bring in a Bill during the ensuing session of Parliament to remove the electoral disabilities under which women now suffer, and this meeting resolve to use their utmost efforts to support the measure, and authorise the chairman at the proper time to forward a petition to Parliament in favour of the Bill."

Mr. EDWARD BLYTH seconded the motion. He maintained that if women voted for the election of their ministers, as was almost universally the case in this country, there was no

reason why they should not vote for their legislators. He thought that the influence which women could bring to bear on Parliament was great, and contended that, had that influence been exercised at last election, the promotion of the most disgraceful act that ever had been passed by the Legislature would not have occurred last session. He concluded by making an appeal to the public for funds to enable the ladies to carry on the agitation.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

On the motion of Mr. JOHN MILLER, M.P., a vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman; and the proceedings were brought to a close.

BATH.

A large audience assembled in the Guild Hall, Bath, on Friday, January 28th, to hear Professor F. W. Newman give an address on the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women. The Mayor was in the chair, and several influential ladies and gentlemen of the city were on the platform. The lecturer said:—On every side we have omens of early success, of which not the least is the ready recognition last year of women's constitutional right to vote in the municipal elections. It was not a bestowal of something new, but the recognition of an ancient and unquestioned right; for last year's act only abolished so much of the Municipal Corporations' Act of 1835 as had unintentionally tended to deprive women of their constitutional and historical vote. Thus the principle of the parliamentary vote is really decided in their favour. For what is the origin of Parliament and of the vote which elects it? The House of Commons did not drop from heaven with divine right. It is a birth out of our institutions in shire and borough. Knights of the shires and burgesses of the towns were its elements. Out of local right of legislation and local voting arose parliamentary legislation and voting for Parliament. On the face of the matter, therefore, it is to be assumed that as a woman of property at the origin of the House of Commons was not disqualified by her sex for the municipal vote, neither was she for the parliamentary vote. Now, to prevent mistake, it is well to state pointedly, that no one is claiming for a woman any special privilege; but simply, that when she has the property and *status* which gives the vote to a man, she should not be deprived of the vote merely because she is a woman. Nor is it to the purpose to say that many women do not value the vote; for the same is true of many men, yet the law does not disfranchise individuals who abstain from voting; much less does it disfranchise all men, because some men will not vote. We frankly admit that numbers of women, especially women in happy circumstances, are hitherto apathetic in this cause. They feel no personal grievance in the denial of the vote, though they may have property in their own right; and if they feel ever so painfully the miseries of other women, they perhaps do not discern that these miseries are either caused or aggravated by the unfairness of law. On the other hand, among ladies who are externally happy, just those who are eminent for knowledge, talent, and thoughtfulness are peculiarly earnest in this cause. Because this is a crisis at which our nation is called to choose between moral life and death, I am bold to address women themselves, and especially educated ladies. If you, ladies, are happy, remember that others are unhappy. If you have kind and just husbands, remember that thousands of women have selfish or wicked husbands. If you have enough of this world's good, remember that scores of thousands of women and girls can scarcely get bread and shelter even by an excess of toil. If you have been tenderly watched over from childhood, learn that thousands of your sisters are untaught and untrained, and many hundreds wickedly sold by parents or kinsfolk to the shambles of the voluptuous rich. It is a grievous fact that

men possessed of political power, and fully aware of things concerning which we fear to speak very plainly, have enacted in a course of many centuries just enough law against these horrors to save their own consciences, but never have so enforced any enactment as to make the law a reality; much less have they enacted all that the case demands. I boldly say that history, and the voice of God sounding through its miserable pages, call upon pure-hearted and happier women to succour their unhappy sisters, whom the ruder and less virtuous sex tramples down. You cannot succour them without some power to mould the law and incite its enforcement. To claim a purely domestic status, disables you for contest against odious enormities, pregnant with fraud, cruelty, and social decay. Such modesty is not womanly sensitiveness; it is rather to be called womanish selfishness. I implore you, ladies! in the cause of the wretched and injured, and to quell that licentiousness which is the ruin of great nations,—Arise, and claim your rightful position in the State!

The lecture was warmly applauded throughout, and a vote of thanks to the professor concluded the meeting.

BRISTOL.

On the 4th of February a public meeting was held in the Athenæum, Bristol, in support of the bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. Mr. F. W. H. Myers, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; Professor F. W. Newman, Professor Sheldon Amos, and others, were among the speakers. Mr. F. W. H. Myers moved the following resolution:—"That by the deprivation of the parliamentary franchise not only do women suffer much grievous social injustice, but the State loses an influence which would tend to soften and purify laws and morals." The speaker pointed out the various kinds of injustice which women suffered in not being represented in Parliament, and maintained that two of the great questions of the day—education and pauperism—were questions with which women, by their nature, were peculiarly fitted to deal. They were also well fitted to bring an influence to bear on the questions of drunkenness and cruelty to animals.—Professor Newman seconded the resolution.—Professor Sheldon Amos proposed the next resolution:—"That the basis of the English constitution, and the actual municipal suffrage, attest the constitutional right of women to vote on a par with men."—Mr. J. F. Norris, in seconding the resolution, said the question had ceased to deserve the epithet of novelty. The municipal franchise and the parliamentary franchise stood in boroughs on precisely the same footing—(hear, hear); and the two Acts of Parliament were nearly in the same words. The municipal franchise was extended to women, and the parliamentary franchise was not; and it was to gain for women the parliamentary franchise that their society existed in this part of the country. If the basis of the English constitution was "taxation and representation," where was the propriety of denying to woman a legitimate expression for the amount of property she held? (Applause.)—The resolution was adopted.—The following resolution was also carried:—"That this meeting, rejoicing to learn that Mr. Jacob Bright and Sir C. W. Dilke, Bart, intend to bring in a bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, pledges itself to promote, by petition and otherwise, over the West of England, the success of this righteous measure." Thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

CREWE.

A largely-attended public meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, Crewe, on Feb. 8th, to consider and support the bill about to be introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Jacob Bright, for the purpose of extending the parliamentary franchise to women householders. Mr. John Eaton,

a member of the local board, occupied the chair. The resolution approving of the principle of the bill was proposed by the Rev. S. A. STEINTHAL, Manchester, in an able speech, and seconded by

Miss BECKER, who was greeted with cheers on rising to address the meeting, said, in the course of her address, it had sometimes been asked why women should be represented in Parliament. She thought the question rather ought to be why should they not? (Hear, hear.) They thought that it was necessary they should be represented, and that it was an injustice to women to exclude their minds from exercising their influence directly upon the Parliament. She further thought that a nation did itself a great injustice in refusing to avail itself of the influence of women in determining its laws and social customs. The introduction of this new influence into the government of the country had become more necessary now when the franchise had been extended. At a time when the government of the nation was in few hands, there was not such a great difference between men and women as to their political status as to make women feel that they were in a degraded position. But every advance which was made in the direction of giving more extended influence to men depressed the condition of women politically. Again, in the case of the Married Women's Property Bill, which would be introduced into Parliament, that question must be referred to an assembly which was composed entirely of men, and from the election of which the voice of every woman was carefully excluded. Were women likely to feel much confidence in such an assembly doing justice in a question between men and women? Would working men like a question between capital and labour to be settled in an assembly from the election of which the voice of every working man was carefully excluded. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) It was certainly possible that such an assemblage would do justice to working men, but if something less than justice was done, would working men be satisfied with it? The general effect of the exclusion of women from political power had been to make women thought of less consequence than men even in matters of education. The education of women was of less consequence to politicians than the education of men so long as women did not have electoral privileges. (Hear.) An instance of this came under her own eye nearly every day in Manchester. There was the Manchester Free School, which, as far as it went, was an admirable institution, and in which a great number of poor boys, who would otherwise be what is called street Arabs, having been taken off the streets, were educated, and, perhaps, provided for in other respects. But the girls, who were sisters to these boys, were left in a friendless and neglected state, and the first direct lesson of that fact was to make the boys think they were of more consequence than the girls. Every day the thought occurred to her what became of the sisters of the boys taken care of in that Free School. Was it not likely that they would grow up a greater curse to the community than their brothers who had been taken care of would have done? ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) It was proposed by the National Education League, of which she had the honour of being a member, to establish schools all over the country, and to make the attendance upon them compulsory of all children of school age. She supposed it would be necessary, if this proposal obtained legislative sanction, to appoint officials to see that the children did attend the schools to be provided for them, and to look after absentees. She wondered if it had ever occurred to anyone that anybody but men should be appointed to be these school-inspectors. It seemed to her that the establishment of this new branch of the civil service might be made a means

of providing for great numbers of educated women who were now struggling to obtain starvation wages as governesses. Such employment was entirely suited to the capacities of these ladies, who would make better school visitors and school inspectors than men could. Their employment was further commended by this reason. It seemed to be overlooked that the father of a family had practically little to do with the matter of education, because during school hours he was engaged at work, and the duty of looking after the children devolved entirely upon the mother of the family. Let them suppose the case of a poor working woman with her husband's and half-a-dozen children's breakfasts to get ready, and the whole burden of housekeeping on her shoulders, and what the effect would be if a man who could not know or sympathise with her difficulties came round as a school inspector to complain that her children were not regular in their school attendance. Would not a lady inspector be far more effectual for good in such cases than a policeman or any other kind of government inspector? (Cheers.) In conclusion, Miss Becker said the question had now reached that stage when it was unnecessary to argue that the claim of women to political influence was just. She took it for granted that it was so just that everyone who wished to deal fairly would at once support it. She hoped this would be the case in Crewe.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried, with one dissentient.

On the motion of the Rev. E. Glover, a petition in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's bill was also adopted.

On February 8th Miss TAYLOR delivered a lecture to a numerous-attended meeting at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and on the following day to a similar meeting at South Shields. Petitions in favour are being signed at these places.

On February 17th the Rev. A. F. MACDONALD delivered a lecture at Lincoln, which was well attended.

At Ipswich, on February 21st, a lecture was given by Miss Couperthwaite; and the same lady lectured the following day at Bury St. Edmund's.

Miss Craiger has lectured at Pleasley Vale, Bolton, Bacup, and Stackstead, in Lancashire.

On the 28th February, the Rev. A. F. Macdonald lectured at Leicester.

After the municipal election of Holbeck, a complimentary tea meeting was held to celebrate the return to the Leeds Town Council of the representatives of Holbeck ward. The fact that many ladies (their sex having on this occasion exercised the municipal franchise for the first time) had given their support to the two gentlemen, seemed to be one of the causes that prompted this complimentary gathering. The place of meeting was crowded, and a large part of the audience were ladies. The working men of Holbeck had spontaneously resolved to commemorate the granting of municipal suffrage to ladies by presenting a timepiece to the first woman who voted in the ward. Mr. A. Challis presented the testimonial, which bore the inscription: "Presented by the Liberal canvassers to Mrs. Margaret Simpson, in commemoration of the institution of the municipal franchise for women, she being the first female who voted in this ward. Nov. 23, 1869." The timepiece was subscribed for by 150 working men, and it was handed to Mrs. Simpson amid loud cheering. Mr. James Hirst acknowledged the presentation on behalf of the recipient, and said she was the widow of a man who had individually fought hard for an extended suffrage.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES.

House of Commons, Wednesday February 16, 1870.

MR. JACOB BRIGHT introduced a Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. He stated that the object of the measure was to enable women who were householders to vote for Members of Parliament should they be qualified to do in accordance with the terms of the Act of Parliament. The bill was read a first time.

"A BILL TO REMOVE THE ELECTORAL DISABILITIES OF WOMEN."

"Be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

"1. That in all Acts relating to the qualification and registration of voters or persons entitled or claiming to be registered and to vote in the election of members of parliament, wherever words occur which import the masculine gender, the same shall be held to include females for all purposes connected with and having reference to the right to be registered as voters, and to vote in such election, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding."

(Prepared and brought in by Mr. Jacob Bright, Sir Charles Dilke, and Mr. Eastwick.)

The second reading of the bill is fixed for Wednesday, May the 4th, and the friends of the cause are earnestly exhorted to send petitions through their local representatives before that date and as early as possible.

The following is the form of petition in favour of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women:

"To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled. The humble Petition of the undersigned sheweth,—

"That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in the election of Members of Parliament, is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments.

"Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass the Bill entitled 'A Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.'

"And your petitioners will ever pray, &c."

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING A PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Write out the form given above without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and sign it on the same piece of paper, obtaining as many signatures as you can to follow. After the written heading is signed extra sheets of paper

may be attached to hold more names. The petition may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

Make up the petition as a book-post packet; write on the cover the words "Parliamentary Petition," and post it, addressed to the member who is to present it, at the House of Commons. No stamp is required, as petitions so forwarded go post free.

Write and send along with the petition, a note (post-paid) asking the member to present it, and to support its prayer. Any member may be asked to present a petition, but it is desirable to select one in whose constituency the petitioners reside. Members of Parliament deem it their duty to present any petition from their constituency, whether they agree with its object or not: and as a rule they are very willing to take charge of any that may be entrusted to their care.

N.B.—The printed forms issued by the Society are used only for collecting signatures. Printed petitions are not received by Parliament, consequently, in using these forms, the printed part must be cut off, and the names attached to a written and signed copy of the petition.

Persons who may send petitions according to the foregoing directions are respectfully requested to notify the fact of their having done so to one of the Secretaries, who will be happy at all times to furnish any information which may be desired.

REPORTS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON PUBLIC PETITIONS—SESSION 1870.

Representation of the People.

FOR EXTENSION OF ELECTIVE FRANCHISE TO WOMEN.

Feb. 10.	¶ Inhabitants of Taunton and vicinity (<i>Mr. Barclay</i>)	51
	[APP. 2] ...	
Feb. 11.	Inhabitants of Kingstown, county of Dublin (<i>Mr. Pim</i>) ...	13
"	— Blackrock, county of Dublin (<i>Mr. Pim</i>) ...	3
"	— Williamstown, county of Dublin (<i>Mr. Pim</i>) ...	3
"	Inhabitants of the county of Longford (<i>Mr. Pim</i>) ...	2
"	Inhabitants of Booterstown, county of Dublin (<i>Mr. Pim</i>) ...	5
"	— Dublin (<i>Mr. Pim</i>) ...	129
Feb. 14.	*Inhabitants of Newcastle-on-Tyne in public meeting assembled. Signed, James Morrison, chairman (<i>Mr. Cowen</i>) ...	1
Feb. 24.	Inhabitants of Normanton, Yorkshire (<i>Mr. Hadfield</i>) ...	14
"	—* Barnsley, Yorkshire, in public meeting assembled; B. Deake, chairman (<i>Mr. Hadfield</i>) ...	1
"	—* Sheffield, Yorkshire, in public meeting assembled; E. Priest, chairman (<i>Mr. Hadfield</i>) ...	1
Feb. 28.	¶ Inhabitants of Salford (<i>Mr. Charley</i>) ...	127
"	—¶ Edinburgh (<i>Mr. M'Loren</i>) ...	1,020
"	— Hull, in public meeting assembled; T. Minto, chairman (<i>Mr. Norwood</i>) [APP. 99] ...	1

Total number of petitions 15—Signatures 1,371

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL—In favour.

Feb. 17.	¶ Inhabitants of Manchester (<i>Mr. Bazley</i>) ...	815
"	—¶ Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester (<i>Mr. Birley</i>) ...	600
"	—¶ Salford (<i>Mr. Cowley</i>) ...	500
"	—¶ Salford (<i>Mr. Cowley</i>) ...	588
"	—¶ Scarborough (<i>Sir Harcourt Johnstone</i>) ...	828
"	— Church Coniston (<i>Colonel Wilson Patten</i>) ...	99
"	—¶ Lancaster (<i>Mr. Frederick Stanley</i>) ...	71

The petitions marked thus ¶ have the addresses of some or all of the petitioners affixed. The petitions marked thus * are signed officially.

Feb. 18.	Inhabitants of Ardwick, Manchester (Mr. Jacob Bright) [APP. 61]...	716
"	* Inhabitants of New Mills, Stockport, in public meeting assembled; John Pollitt, chairman (Mr. John Benjamin Smith) ...	1
"	High Wycombe (Mr. Taylor) ...	14
Feb. 21.	* Inhabitants of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in public meeting assembled; W. Armstrong, chairman (Mr. Cowen) ...	1
"	* Riddings, near Alfreton, in public meeting assembled; A. Butler, chairman (Mr. Cowen) ...	1
"	* Crook, Durham, in public meeting assembled; T. Brown, chairman (Mr. Cowen) ...	1
"	* Alnwick, in public meeting assembled; W. Wright, chairman (Mr. Cowen) ...	1
"	Knutsford (Mr. Wilbraham Egerton) ...	2
"	Pinner, in the county of Middlesex (Viscount Enfield) [APP. 85] ...	129
"	Oxford (Mr. Vernon Harcourt) ...	41
"	Mommouth (Mr. Taylor) ...	15
"	* Crewe, in public meeting assembled; J. Eaton, chairman (Mr. John Tollemache) ...	1
Feb. 22.	¶ Inhabitants of the borough of Salford (Mr. Cavley) ...	503
"	Boiton, Lancashire (Mr. Hick) ...	220
"	¶ Bristol ...	1,067
Feb. 23.	* Inhabitants of Bacup, Lancashire, in public meeting assembled; J. Holland, chairman (Mr. Holt) ...	1
"	Rawtenstall, in the county of Lancaster (Mr. Holt) ...	213
"	¶ Chelsea ...	2,832
Feb. 24.	¶ Inhabitants of Bolton (Colonel Gray) ...	303
"	Hastings (Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth) ...	120
"	E. Slatter, Battle, Sussex, and others (Mr. Taylor) ...	180
Feb. 25.	Inhabitants of Bath (Mr. Donald Dalrymple) ...	105
"	Hendon, Middlesex (Viscount Enfield) ...	170
"	Harrow, Middlesex (Viscount Enfield) ...	218
"	Budleigh, Salterton, Devon (Mr. Thos. Hughes) ...	100
"	Church Coniston, Lancashire (Mr. Frederick Stanley) ...	25
Feb. 28.	¶ Inhabitants of Newton Saint Loe, Corston, and other places (Major Allen) ...	102
"	* Oldham, Lancashire, in public meeting assembled; Thomas Haigh, chairman (Mr. Hibbert) ...	64
"	Ambleside and other places (Mr. William Louther) ...	1
"	Cheltenham (Mr. Henry Samuelson) ...	72
"	Stockport (Mr. John Benjamin Smith) ...	62
"	Beverley (Mr. Taylor) ...	46
"	Leominster ...	646
"	Inhabitants of Manchester (Mr. Jacob Bright) ...	85
Mar. 1.	¶ Marylebone (Mr. Thomas Chambers) ...	508
"	Tower Hamlets ...	2,363
"	Hackney ...	1,779
"	Hackney ...	2,560

Total number of petitions 46—Signatures 18,795

THE SUMMARY OF PETITIONS FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS SINCE FEBRUARY 10, 1870, IS—

	No. of Petitions signed officially or under seal.	Total No. of Petitions.	No. of Signatures.
For Extension of the Elective Franchise to Women [2, 99].....	4	14	1,371
Women's Disabilities Bill—In favour [61, 85]	8	46	18,795
	12	60	20,166

The petitions marked thus ¶ have the addresses of some or all of the petitioners affixed. The petitions marked * are signed officially.

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

THERE are two bills now before Parliament dealing with the question of the Property of Married Women. The bill brought in by Mr. Russell Gurney, Mr. Jacob Bright, and Mr. Headlam, proposes to abrogate the rule of the common law which vests such property in the husband. It provides that every woman who marries after the passing of the Act shall hold her property in all respects as if she had continued unmarried. This bill passed the House of Commons last session by a very large majority. It passed the second reading in the House of Lords, but was postponed on account of the late period of the session. It has, therefore, to go through all its stages again this session.

A second bill, known as Married Women's Property Bill No. 2, has been introduced by Mr. Raikes, Mr. Stavely Hill, and Mr. West. The object of this bill is to preserve the principle of the common law, which has worked so much injustice, and to attempt to mitigate some of its worst abuses by an amount of interference with the rights both of husbands and wives to dispose of their property by mutual consent as would in itself be a most serious evil. Mr. Raikes proposes to make every husband a trustee for his wife; but he is not to be allowed to sell property or spend the trust money, even with the full sanction of the wife, without the consent of a County Court Judge! The bill provides that a judge shall have power to grant protection to a wife's earnings provided she can show that for six months she has earned more than half the expenses of the family. Thus a woman with ten children would have to earn much more than a woman with one child before she would be entitled to the benefit of the Act; and an idle and extravagant husband would simply have to spend more than twice as much as his wife possibly could earn in order to deprive her of all legal claim to protection.

All persons who approve of the principle of Mr. Russell Gurney's Bill must disapprove of the principle of Mr. Raikes's. Such persons should immediately petition Parliament for the former and against the latter. The following is the form recommended:—

"To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

"The humble petition of the undersigned, sheweth,

"That the Common Law of England, which gives the personal property and earnings of a wife to her husband is unjust in principle, and presses with especial hardship on the poor.

"That in the judgment of your Petitioners no measure can be adequate for the protection of the property of married women short of the total repeal of the principle of the Common Law.

"Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will reject the Bill entitled 'A Bill to protect the Property of Married Women' (Married Women's Property Bill

No. 2), and instead thereof pass the Bill entitled 'A Bill to amend the law with respect to the Property of Married Women.'

"And your Petitioners will ever pray," &c.

Advice to persons about to marry. If you are women, wait till Mr. Russell Gurney's Bill has become law, and help it to become law as soon as possible, by promoting petitions in support of it.

Further information will be given on application to the Secretary of the Married Women's Property Committee—Miss Wolstenholme, Congleton, Cheshire.

The following petitions have been already presented in favour of Mr. Russell Gurney's Bill:—

Feb. 17.	Inhabitants of Flixton (Mr. Algernon Egerton).....	30
" 18.	Bradford (Mr. Miall)	94
" 18.	Rochdale (Mr. Thomas Potter)	495
" 21.	Hendon, Middlesex (Viscount Enfield)	110
" 21.	Inhabitants of Harrow Middlesex (Viscount Enfield)	130
" 21.	Margaret Mills and others (Mr. Russell Gurney).....	200
" 21.	Arthur Hobhouse and others	104
" 22.	Inhabitants of Glenridding (Mr. Wm. Louther).....	65
" 22.	David Robertson and others (Mr. Wells).....	60
" 24.	Inhabitants of Nottingham (Mr. Seely)	102
" 25.	Prestwich, Lancashire (Mr. Algernon Egerton)	89
" 28.	Inhabitants of Corston, Newton St. Loe, and other places near Bristol (Major Allen)	62
" 28.	Inhabitants of Hawkshead (Colonel Wilson Patten)	77
March 1.	Stockport, Manchester, and other places (Mr. Jacob Bright).....	223
" 1.	Inhabitants of Manchester (Mr. Jacob Bright)	230
" 1.	Church Coniston (Colonel Wilson Patten)	102

Total number of Petitions, 16; Signatures ... 2,182

The following Newspapers have published articles advocating the principles of women's suffrage, or extracts from the Second Annual Report of the society. The politics are indicated by the initial letters of the words Liberal, Conservative, Neutral, Independent:—The Manchester Examiner and Times (L), the Bath Express (C), the Surrey Comet (N), the Exeter Gazette and Daily Telegraph (C), Brett's St. Leonards and Hastings Gazette (L), the Hereford Journal (C), the Bristol Daily Review (L I), the Penny Illustrated Paper (L), the Wellington Times (L), the Derbyshire Courier (L), the Newbury Weekly News (N), the Ulverston Advertiser (N), the Tunbridge Wells Gazette (N), the Tyrone Constitution (C), Newcastle-under-Lyme Weekly Times (I), the Londonderry Standard (L. C.), the Scarborough Gazette (N), the Barrow Herald (I), the North Wilts Herald (I), the Monaghan Northern Standard (C), the Sunderland Times (L), the Buchan Observer (I), the Western Daily Mercury (L), the Nenagh Guardian (C), the Armagh Guardian (C), Leeds Mercury (L), Western Daily Press (L), Daily Telegraph (L), Staffordshire Weekly Times (L).

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Rev. W. H. CROSSKEY.	Mr. WM. TAYLOR.
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Dr. LLOYD.	Mrs. TYNDALL.

Secretary:—Miss STURGE, 17, Frederick Road, Edgbaston.
Treasurer:—Mrs. WM. TAYLOR, 10, Chad Road, Edgbaston.

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Secretary, Miss SMITH, 8, Finkle-street, Carlisle.

The Carlisle Society originated at a meeting held at the Athenæum, on April 2nd, 1869, when a lecture was delivered by Miss Becker, of Manchester, the Rev. J. Martin in the chair. A petition to parliament in favour of women's suffrage was adopted by the meeting, and presented by Sir Wilfrid Lawson. Further petitions to both houses of parliament for the parliamentary and municipal franchise for women were presented during the session. Letters have been written to the local papers by the secretary, and one was sent to the *Ulverston Mirror* which appeared together with a leading article apparently suggested by the letter. Papers and pamphlets relating to the objects of the society have been largely distributed, and in the autumn a debating society in the city took up the subject of women's suffrage for discussion, when papers were supplied to several of the gentlemen. In return, the secretary was invited to be present on the evening the discussion took place. She availed herself of the opportunity, and had the satisfaction of finding that the majority of the members present were in favour of women's suffrage, and the most shrewd and sensible speeches of the evening were those delivered in favour of women's political rights.

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addressed to 28, JACKSON'S ROW, ALBERT SQUARE, MANCHESTER.